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EXAMINER

RICHER, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2628

DATE MAILED: 09/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed June 27, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. As to newly amended claims 1, 9, 17, and 24, which incorporate parts of now-cancelled claim 4, applicant argues that Hoag displays completely different columns of data in two panes, and thus Hoag does not display a "column of data from the first portion of the list item". Applicant further argues that Hoag instead displays "arbitrary labels" numbered 1-10. Examiner notes that claim 1 recites "displaying at least one element of data from the first portion of the list item in the second window to identify correspondence between the second portion and the first portion". The so-called "arbitrary" labels of Hoag perform exactly this purpose, identifying correspondence between a top pane and a bottom pane. In fact, these labels are anything but arbitrary because they perform an important role in associating data between panes. Fig. 6 of Hoag bears this out, since as one pane shifts downward, the numbers in both panes still correspond (see element 522; also see col. 5, lines 30-41). It is further noted that "element of data" is a broad term which can encompass labels, headers, names, etc. since no further definition of what an "element" is is given in the application.
3. As to claims 3, 11, 18, and 27, applicant argues that Hoag does not disclose more than one "data source", because a plurality of input devices do not read on data sources. It is noted that the specification discloses web pages as examples of data sources, but the term "data source" is not explicitly defined by the specification. To give

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the term "data source" its definition using the examples in the specification, would be unduly reading the specification into the claims. Therefore, one would be correct in giving the term "data source" its broadest reasonable interpretation where it appears in the claims. In this case, the examiner has interpreted "data source" to denote a "source of data". Input devices such as a mouse or keyboard are two different sources of data input, and so it is believed that Hoag does disclose this limitation in claim 3 and similar claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 27, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoag (U.S. Patent 6,313,848) in view of Brown (U.S. Publication 2005/0005236).

6. As to claims 1, 9, 17, and 24, Hoag discloses:

determining that data for a list item cannot be displayed within the width boundary (fig. 5, element 340; Abstract lines 6-8; col. 2, lines 25-29);

creating a first window and a second window based on the determination that data for a list item cannot be displayed within the width boundary (fig. 5, elements 511 and 512; window panes, roughly corresponding to windows, are created).

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splitting the data for the list item into a first portion (fig. 5, see columns 1-6) and a second portion (fig. 5, see columns 7-12), such that the first portion will fit into the first window (Abstract lines 11-14; col. 2, lines 29-36);

displaying the first portion (columns 1-6 of fig. 5) of the data in the first window (element 511);

displaying the second portion (columns 7-12 of fig. 5) of the data for the list wrapped into the second window (element 512; also see Abstract lines 14-17; col. 2, lines 36-38; fig. 5-6);

and displaying at least one element of data (fig. 5-6; elements 522, 523; numbers in the label column correspond to “elements of data”) from the first portion of the list item in the second window to identify correspondence between the second portion and the first portion (fig. 5-6).

While the panes (col. 4, lines 50-53) of fig. 5 of Hoag roughly correspond to windows, they lack some characteristics that are usually associated with windows. The “panes” of Brown (fig. 1; p. 2, section 0022), however, have all the characteristics that are associated with windows (title bar, etc.) and therefore do read on windows. The motivation for using “real” windows is a common one: to give a user control over two different objects independently (fig. 1, note the two distinct title bars for movement). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Hoag to use objects more closely corresponding to windows in order to give a user independent control over two different objects as taught by Brown.

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7. As to claims 3, 11, 19, and 27, Hoag discloses a method wherein the data for a list item comes from more than one data source (fig. 5-6; col. 3, lines 3-5; a plurality of input devices for inputting data are disclosed).

8. As to claims 8, 16, 23, and 33, Hoag discloses a method comprising handling an event associated with the first window such that the event synchronously affects the second window (fig. 6, element 522; also see col. 5, lines 30-41; scrolling affects both windows synchronously).

9. Claims 5, 13, 21, 29, and 34-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoag in view of Brown and further in view of Otani (U.S. Patent 6,865,720).

10. As to claims 5, 13, 21, 29, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, and 43 Hoag discloses a distinguishing feature to label each row of the table (fig. 5, note the row numbers). Hoag does not disclose adding such a feature in response to user selection nor does Hoag disclose that this feature is a color. Otani, however, discloses a method of wrapping table data (fig. 32a; fig. 32b) and also discloses adding distinguishing display features to a row such as a background color (col. 5, line 65-col. 6, line 20). Since the wrapped data (fig. 32a; fig. 32b) is simply a carbon copy of the data that was previously lined up in a row, it stands to reason that the background color would be inherently the same in the wrapped row as compared to the non-wrapped row. The motivation for this is to distinguish table types (col. 5, lines 57-64). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Hoag in view of Brown to distinguish rows with a background color in order to distinguish table types as taught by Otani.

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11. As to claims 36, 40, and 44, Otani discloses a method wherein the more than one data source is a website (col. 1, lines 30-39). The motivation for splitting a table in a website is to assist a reader to see only required information, in an environment such as a mobile device (col. 1, lines 21-29). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Hoag in view of Brown to use a website as a data source for table splitting in order to assist a reader in viewing required information as taught by Otani.

12. As to claims 37, 41, and 45, Otani discloses a method wherein the event includes sorting the data for the list item (col. 22, lines 1-9). The motivation for adding this feature is similar to the motivation found in the rejection to claim 36.

Conclusion

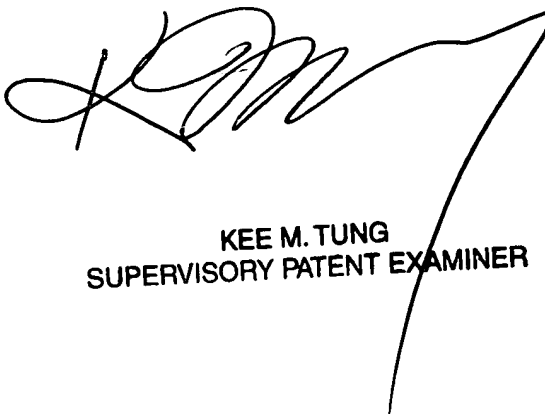
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Richer whose telephone number is (571) 272-7790. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on (571) 272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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AMR
9/15/06



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